



Your Energy Connection

Rocky Mount Public Utilities



Rocky Mount Receives the RP3 Designation

Rocky Mount Public Utilities (RMPU) have long taken pride in their ability to maintain a level of reliability that surpasses that of other sectors of the electric utility industry. The relatively smaller geographic areas served by public power and the local presence that keeps these utilities in close touch with customers all contribute to a high level of reliability.

Rocky Mount Public Utilities now has an added reason to take pride in the reliability of their electric service: The American Public Power Association (APPA) has designated RMPU as a Reliable Public Power Provider! This is a new national program by APPA to acknowledge the efforts and accomplishments of public power utilities to keep the lights on. Rocky Mount has received the designation of being a Gold level Reliable Public Power Provider.

To earn RP3 designation, utilities must demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, training and system improvement. Criteria within each category are based on sound business practices and represent a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

"We're pleased to be recognized with this national award," said Rich Worsinger, Director of Utilities for the city of Rocky Mount. "Our mission is to provide safe, reliable power, and we are proud to be acknowledged for serving our community."

In reviewing the reliability activities and practices, the review committee looks at

the adequacy of a utility's power supply and the ability to withstand sudden disturbances on the electrical system. Utilities are also required to track standard reliability indices. Utilities must participate in a mutual aid program for emergency recovery and demonstrate they have a reasonable plan in place for dealing with disasters.

In reviewing for safety practices, the utility is tested on their adherence to safe work practices, whether the utility uses an up-to-date safety manual; holds safety meetings; management participates in safety training; use of incentives that reward safety-minded work habits; annual review of CPR, rescue procedures and use of automatic external defibrillators.

The training section requires participation in various industry conferences, workshops, and training programs.

System improvement is gauged by the utility's investments and work aimed at improving electric system operations. Utilities are also graded on their documentation of system betterment projects.

The program is an effort to document high work force standards for the public power utility industry and to allow utilities to gain public recognition of their sustained efforts at providing excellent electric service.

APPA is the national organization representing more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community- and state- owned electric utilities. It is located in Washington, D.C.

BEAT THE PEAK

“Peak” or “Peak Demand” is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system, normally when a large number of customers are using appliances at the same time. By controlling the electric load or load management, we can keep electric costs in control. Rocky Mount averages approximately less than 10 days per month load managing. There are several options available:

Electric Water Heater Control

Water heaters are cycled off during load management periods. Controlling water heaters will not affect the amount of hot water available. Customers receive **\$2.00** credit each month.

Electric Heat Strip Control

Heat strips are controlled during the winter load management periods, while compressors continue to provide heat. Customers receive **\$15.00** credit each month if the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below on a non-holiday weekday.

Central Air Conditioning Total Control

Customers receive **\$20.00** credit each month for July, August, and September. The compressor is turned off for the entire load management period. Fans will continue to circulate the cool air in your house, but your compressor will not generate any new cool air.

There are no installation or maintenance charges associated with this program.

**Call 972-1283
for more information.**



Know Your Holiday Safety Tips

- Keep warm air registers, return air openings, space heaters and baseboards clear of furniture, rugs and drapes to allow free air movement.
- Before reusing indoor and outdoor light strings check and discard if they have frayed cords, cracks in lamp holders or loose connections.
- Unplug the light string before replacing a bulb. Also, check that the replacement bulb matches the voltage and wattage of the original light.
- Always turn off indoor holiday lighting before going to bed or leaving your home.
- Never connect more than one extension cord together; instead use a single cord that is long enough to reach to the outlet without stretching.
- Avoid using a cord that is too long for the job because a coiled or tangled cord can overheat and can also be a tripping hazard.
- Never run an electrical cord through a doorway. If the door closes on the cord, the insulation could be damaged. Similarly, never run an electrical cord under a carpet or rug. When people walk over the rug the weight and friction could damage the cord, increasing the risk of fire or electric shock.
- Make sure light strings and cords, spotlights and floodlights are certified and marked for outdoor use.
- Turn off the electricity supply outlet before working with outdoor wiring.
- When hanging lights, keep electrical connectors off the ground and away from metal eaves troughs. Use insulated tape or plastic clips instead of metal nails or tacks to hold them in place.

**Happy Holidays to All the Customers
of Rocky Mount Public Utilities**

2006

**For more information about Rocky Mount Public Utilities see our website at:
www.ci.rocky-mount.nc.us**

Newsletters from previous months are available online.